

**OPINIONS AND DECLARATIONS
RENDERED BY THE INTER-
NATIONAL COMMISSION ON
ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE**

Edited by

FRANCIS HEMMING, C.M.G., C.B.E.
Secretary to the Commission

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OPINION 275

Determination of the type species of the nominal genus
Amplypterus Hübner [1819] (Class Insecta, Order
Lepidoptera)

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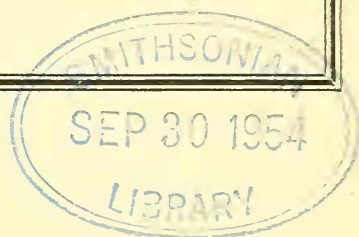
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INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

COMPOSITION AT THE TIME OF THE ADOPTION OF THE RULING GIVEN IN OPINION 275

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C. Alternate Members of the Commission at the Session held in Paris in 1948

- Professor Enrique BELTRÁN (*Instituto Mexicano de Recursos Naturales Renovables A.C., Mexico City, Mexico*).
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OPINION 275

DETERMINATION OF THE TYPE SPECIES OF THE NOMINAL GENUS "AMPLYPTERUS" HÜBNER [1819] (CLASS INSECTA, ORDER LEPIDOPTERA)

RULING :—(1) The statement by Grote (1865) that Hübner, when establishing the nominal genus *Amplipterus* Hübner [1819] (Class Insecta, Order Lepidoptera), had evidently regarded *A. ganascus* (Stoll) "as the typical species of his genus" does not constitute the selection by Grote, under Rule (g) in Article 30, of that species as the type species of the foregoing genus, for Grote gave no indication that he himself accepted the above species as the type species of this genus.

(2) In view of (1) above, the type species of the genus *Amplipterus* Hübner [1819], is *Sphinx panopus* Cramer [1779], by selection by Kirby (1892), the first species to be selected as the type species of this genus in conditions which satisfy the requirements of Rule (g) in Article 30, as clarified by the Thirteenth International Congress of Zoology, Paris, 1948.

(3) The generic name *Amplipterus* Hübner [1819] (gender of name: masculine), with the type species specified in (2) above, is hereby placed on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* as Name No. 693.

(4) The specific name *panopus* Cramer [1779], as published in the combination *Sphinx panopus*, is hereby placed on the *Official List of Specific Names in Zoology* as Name No. 97.

I.—THE STATEMENT OF THE CASE

On 28th November 1945 Senhor José Oiticica Filho (*Museu Nacional, Rio de Janeiro, Brasil*) submitted to the International

Commission on Zoological Nomenclature the following application asking for a clarification of the meaning of Rule (g) in Article 30 of the *Règles* (relating to the selection, by subsequent authors, of type species of nominal genera), with special reference to the question of the species to be accepted as the type species of the Sphingid genus *Ampllypterus* Hübner [1819] (Class Insecta, Order Lepidoptera) :—

Question of the type species of “ *Ampllypterus* ” Hübner [1819]

By JOSÉ OITICICA FILHO
(*Museu Nacional, Rio de Janeiro, Brasil*)

I am writing to you to ask for the opinion of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature on the following problem that I have met with in a Revision of the generic names of the SPHINGIDAE (Lepidoptera).

1. Grote, 1865 (*Proc. ent. Soc. Philadelphia* 5 : 64), under “ *Ambulyx ganascus* ” wrote as follows : “ *Ampllypterus* Hübn. (*Ampllypterus* Walk., Clemens) contains discordant material, while *A. Ganascus* is regarded evidently as the typical species of his genus by Hübner ”.

In this sentence Grote was not correct, as Hübner never designated nor even attempted to designate type species for genera.

2. But the foregoing action by Grote raises the following problem : Does that action constitute the selection of a type species for *Ampllypterus* Hübner under the International Rules ?

3. I have discussed this question with some of my colleagues and they are of the opinion that, in the sense of the International Rules, no selection of a type species was made by Grote, as in the passage in question there is no clear indication that Grote himself regarded *ganascus* as the type species of *Ampllypterus*. They are of the opinion that Grote made a mistake and nothing more.

4. Let us, for example, compare the above passage with the following sentence by Crotch (*Cistula Entomologica* 1 : 60) : “ The type of the genus *Sphinx* is, according to Lamarck (1801), *S. convolvuli*. Latreille (1805), figured *S. atropos* as its type, which was separated by Ochsenheimer (1816).” In this sentence Crotch made two mistakes, similar to the one made by Grote, for neither Lamarck nor Latreille selected a type species for the genus *Sphinx*. Nobody would claim that Crotch selected a type species for *Sphinx* in the above passage. Why ? Was

it because he cited two authors, Lamarck and Latreille, instead of only one, as was the case with Grote ? I would answer " No ". Nobody accepts Crotch's action as constituting the selection of a type species for the genus *Sphinx* ; this is because Crotch made two mistakes and for no other reason.

5. If one were to accept the passage from Grote quoted in paragraph 1 above as constituting the selection of a type species for *Amplipterus*, one would be forced to accept also the passage in Crotch's paper as constituting the selection of *S. convolvuli* as the type species of *Sphinx*, for this is the first of the two mistaken statements by Crotch and has line priority over the other. I think that nobody has ever reasoned in this way in this or in any similar case. Logically, I think, we should take the same line in the case of Grote's action.

6. However this may be, it is very important from my point of view that all doubt should be removed on the question of what species is the type species of the genus *Amplipterus*. It is for this reason that I now ask the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature to give a ruling on the question whether in the passage cited in paragraph 1 above Grote did or did not select a type species for the foregoing genus.

II.—THE SUBSEQUENT HISTORY OF THE CASE

2. *Registration of the present application* : On receipt, the present application was allotted the Registered Number Z.N.(S.) 204.

3. *Supplementary statement by Senhor José Oiticica Filho (Museu Nacional, Rio de Janeiro, Brasil)* : On 24th May 1946 the following supplementary statement relating to the present case was received from Senhor Oiticica :—

" *Amplipterus* " (Addendum)

An historical account of the generic name " *Amplipterus* " Hübner, 1819

By JOSÉ OITICICA FILHO
(*Museu Nacional, Rio de Janeiro, Brasil*)

Hübner (1819 : 133), proposed the generic name *Amplipterus* for three species : " 1429—*Amplipterus ganascus* Stoll ; 1430—*A. panopus* Cram. ; 1431—*A. bubastus* Cram. ".

Of these three species *A. gannascus* Stoll [1791] (misspelt *ganascus* by Hübner) and *A. panopus* Cramer [1779], are the only relevant species in this historical account and they are not congeneric species.

Grote (1865 : 64) under “*Ambulyx*, Boisduval” cited the two following species (with a synonymic bibliography): “*Ambulyx stringilis*” and “*Ambulyx Ganascus*”, also misspelt “*ganascus*” instead of *gannascus*. Under “*Ambulyx Ganascus*” he wrote: “This genus shows certain remote affinities to *Smerinthus*. *Amplipterus* Hübn. (*Amblypterus* Walk., Clemens), contains discordant material, while *A. Ganascus* is regarded evidently as the typical species of his genus by Hübner”. This passage from Grote has been overlooked by all authors. Rothschild & Jordan (1903 : 181, sub *Amplipterus gannascus*) cited Grote’s paper, but under the name *Ambulyx* only. This is the only reference by Grote to the genus *Amplipterus* in the whole of his entomological work.

Kirby (1892 : 674) selected as the type species of the genus *Amplipterus* the species “*A. panopus* Stoll (*Sphinx panopus*), 1779”. This is the species that Rothschild & Jordan (1903 : 188) made the type species of their genus *Campsogene*.

Rothschild & Jordan (1903 : xxi—xxv) introduced a special system of nomenclature on which they based their whole work of 1903. But, unhappily, as their system was different to the International Code, much confusion was caused in the nomenclature of the SPHINGIDAE by their, otherwise, monumental work.

Based on their particular system Rothschild & Jordan selected (1903 : 180) as the type species of *Amplipterus* Hübner “*gannascus*”, that is *Sphinx gannascus* Stoll.

Raymundo (1933 : 22), following Rothschild & Jordan, cited as type species “*Amplipterus gannascus* Stoll”. Raymundo (1937 : 61) takes the same action as in 1933.

Oiticica Filho (1939 : 271), being unaware of Grote’s paper of 1865 said that the type species of *Amplipterus* Hübner was the species *Sphinx panopus* Stoll, selected by Kirby in 1892 and then proposed the new name *Adhemarius* (type species : *Sphinx gannascus* Stoll [1791]) for the species included by Rothschild & Jordan (1903 : 180—185) in the genus which they called *Amplipterus*, because these species would otherwise have been without an available generic name. The species included by Rothschild & Jordan under *Amplipterus* were all of them known under the generic name *Ambulyx* Westwood, 1849—type species : *Sphinx (Ambulyx) substringilis* Westwood, 1848, a species not congeneric with them—except *S. gannascus*, that had been included under *Amplipterus* first by Hübner in [1819] and afterwards by Rothschild & Jordan in 1903.

Oiticica Filho (1942 : 98), having by this time become aware of Grote's passage of 1865 (see above) thought that Grote had selected "*Sphinx gannascus* Stoll, 1791" as the type for *Amplipterus* and he therefore rejected his name *Adhemarius*, 1939, as being isogenotypical with *Amplipterus*.

After so many discussions about this matter I am now convinced that Grote's action of 1865 was only a mistake, as nobody can tell what were Grote's own views as to the type species of *Amplipterus*. I no longer hold the view which I did in 1942.

The present state of the generic names of SPHINGIDAE related with the type of "Amplipterus"

(1) If Grote did not select a type species for *Amplipterus* in 1865.

In this case we have :

Amplipterus Hübner, [1819] ; logotype *Sphinx panopus* Stoll [1779].
Campsogene Rothschild & Jordan, 1903, with the same species as orthotype, falls to the ground.

Adhemarius Oiticica Filho, 1942 ; orthotype *Sphinx gannascus* Stoll, 1791.

(2) If Grote did select a type species for *Amplipterus* in 1865.

In this case we have :

Amplipterus Hübner [1819] ; logotype *Sphinx gannascus* Stoll [1791]. *Adhemarius* Oiticica Filho, 1942, falls to the ground, with the same species as orthotype.

Campsogene Rothschild & Jordan ; orthotype *Sphinx panopus* Stoll, 1779.

Bibliographical references :

Cramer, P. 1779—*Papillons exotiques des trois parties du monde l'Asie, l'Afrique et l'Amérique*. The same title in Dutch and text in Dutch and French. 1 [in part] : 1—132 ; pl. 1—84.

Grote, A. R. 1865 (August)—Notes on Cuban Sphingidae. *Proc. ent. Soc. Philadelphia* 5 : 33—84 ; pl. 1—2.

I have a separate copy of the above paper with the title "Notes on the Sphingidae of Cuba" and the sub-title "Notes on Cuban Sphingidae". The pages are numbered 1—52. The plates 1—2 are coloured. Grote (1886, *North American Lepidoptera. The Hawk Moths of North America* : 15, footnote) said that this separate copy was very rare.

Hübner, J. 1819—*Verzeichniss bekannter Schmettlinge* [sic]. [in part] : 17—176. Date from Hemming, F. (1937. Hübner).

- Kirby, W. F. 1892—*A synonymic Catalogue of Lepidoptera Heterocera* [Moths]. 1. Sphingines and Bombyces : xii + 951 p. (London and Berlin).
- Oiticica Filho, J. 1939 (31-5-39)—Sphingidae—in Relatorio excursão científica do Instituto Oswaldo Cruz. *Bol. Biológico*. (N.S.) 4 (2) : 269—277.
- 1942 (30-11-42)—Sphingidae capturados em Porto Cabral (Margem Paulista do Rio Paraná) com notas sôbre nomenclature. *Papéis Avulsos, Dep. Zool. S. Paulo* 2 (no. 5) : 97—102.
- Raymundo, B. 1933 (Junho)—Nomenclature popular dos lepidopteros do Distrito Federal e seus arredores. *O Campo* 4 (6) : 22—24 ; fig. 216—223.
- 1937—Castnídeo e Esfingídeos do Brasil. (Estudo sobre algumas sps. dessas famílias). *An. Col. Pedro II*, 8 (1928—1934) : [3]—161 + táboas 1—37 (with 138 fig.) + [201]—302.
- Rothschild, W. & Jordan, K. 1903 (April)—A revision of the lepidopterous family Sphingidae. *Novit. Zool.* 9 (Suppl.) : i—cxxxv + 1—972 ; pl. i—lxvii (7 col.).
- Stoll, C. [1791]—in Cramer, *Papillons éxotiques* [etc.] ; Suppl. : 8 + 184 p. [all the pages]. Date from Brown, F. M. in *Ann. Ent. Soc. America* 34 (1) : 127—138 (March, 1941).

III.—THE DECISION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

4. At an early stage of its Session held in Paris in 1948 (Paris Session, 6th Meeting, Conclusion 72) (1950, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 4 : 181—182) the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature submitted proposals, for the consideration of the Thirteenth International Congress of Zoology, for the clarification of the provisions of Rule (g) in Article 30 of the *Règles*, and these proposals, together with other proposals relating to the clarification and amendment of the *Règles*, were later approved by the Congress in Plenary Session (1950, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 5 : 131). As will be seen from the extract quoted in the immediately following paragraph from the Official Record of the Proceedings

of the Commission when it came to consider the case of *Amplipterus* Hübner, the revised provisions of Rule (g) in Article 30 completely resolved the difficulty of principle originally involved in Senhor Oiticica Filho's application regarding the foregoing generic name.

5. The application relating to the question of the type species of the nominal genus *Amplipterus* Hübner [1819], was considered by the International Commission at the Fourteenth Meeting of its Paris Session held at the Sorbonne in the Amphithéâtre Louis-Liard on Monday, 26th July 1948 at 2030 hours. The following is an extract from the Official Record of the Proceedings of the International Commission, giving a summary of the discussion on this case, which took place at the foregoing meeting (1950, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 4 : 508) :—

IN DISCUSSION it was pointed out that, as the wording of Rule (g) in Article 30 had stood at the opening of the present Session, it had undoubtedly been too restrictive in character, for the then existing wording was such as to exclude from the scope of that Rule the very numerous cases where the currently accepted type selection rested upon a statement by a given author either (1) that a given previous author had selected a certain species to be the type species of the genus concerned in cases where no such previous selection had been made or (2) in the case of the older authors, that such a species was the type species of the genus in question as the result of the action of previous authors in "eliminating" from the genus the other originally included species. To meet cases of this kind the Commission had, during their present Session, agreed upon a liberalisation of the provisions of Rule (g). In so doing, they had agreed that while the revised wording should be such as to bring within the scope of the Rule cases where an author clearly stated that a given nominal species was the type species of the genus concerned, even where that author expressly stated that he was not himself then selecting that species for this purpose, the Rule in its amended form should provide also that it should be a condition of the acceptance of such a statement as a valid type selection that the author should make it clear that he himself regarded (for whatever reason) the species in question as the type species of the genus under

consideration. In these circumstances, it was now clear that Senhor Oiticica had interpreted Article 30 correctly when he had rejected Grote's action in 1865 as not complying with the requirements of Rule (g) in that Article. In view of the clarification of that Rule agreed upon during the present Session, no question of principle arose any longer in connection with the present application, for it was evident from the words used by Grote that, while he had there expressed an opinion regarding the view held by Hübner, he had given no indication regarding his own opinion on the question at issue.

6. The following extract from the Official Record of Proceedings of the International Commission sets out the decision reached by it in this case at the foregoing meeting (Paris Session, 14th Meeting, Conclusion 31) (1950, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 4 : 507—509) :—

THE COMMISSION agreed :—

- (1) that the statement by Grote (1865) that Hübner, when establishing the genus *Amplipterus* Hübner [1819] (Class Insecta, Order Lepidoptera), had evidently regarded *A. ganascus* Stoll “as the typical species of his genus”, did not constitute the selection by Grote, under Rule (g) in Article 30, of that species as the type species of the foregoing genus, for he had given no indication that he (Grote) himself accepted the above species as the type species of that genus ;
- (2) that, in view of (1) above, the type species of this genus was the species first subsequently so selected in conditions which satisfied the requirements of the foregoing Rule (*i.e.* *Sphinx panopus* Cramer [1779], so selected by Kirby (1892)) ;
- (3) to place the generic name *Amplipterus* Hübner [1819] (type species by selection by Kirby, 1892 : *Sphinx panopus* Cramer [1779]) on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* ;

- (4) to place the trivial name *panopus* Cramer [1779], as published in the binominal combination *Sphinx panopus* Cramer, on the *Official List of Specific Trivial Names in Zoology* ;
- (5) to render an *Opinion* recording the decisions specified in (1) to (4) above.

7. The following are the original references for the names placed on *Official Lists* by the Ruling given in the present *Opinion* :—

Amflypterus Hübner [1819], *Verz. bekannt. Schmett.* (9) : 133
panopus, *Sphinx*, Cramer [1779], *Uitl. kapellen* 3 : 50, pl. 124,
 figs. A, B

The reference for the type selection for the genus *Amflypterus* Hübner, [1819], is :—Kirby, 1892, *Syn. Cat. Lep. Het.* 1 : 674.

8. The gender of the generic name *Amflypterus* Hübner [1819], referred to in the decision quoted in paragraph 6 above, is masculine.

9. The decision taken in the present case was reported to, and approved by, the Section on Nomenclature of the Thirteenth International Congress of Zoology, Paris, 1948, at its Sixth Meeting held on Monday, 26th July 1948 (1950, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 5 : 116).

10. The Ruling given in the present *Opinion* was concurred in by the sixteen (16) Commissioners and Alternate Commissioners present at the Paris Session of the International Commission, namely :—

Beltrán *vice* Cabrera ; Boschma ; Bradley ; di Caporiacco ; Hemming ; Hindle *vice* Jordan ; Jorge *vice* do Amaral ; Kirby *vice* Stoll ; Lemche *vice* Dymond ; Mansour *vice* Hankó ; Metcalf *vice* Peters ; Riley *vice* Calman ; Rode ; Spärck *vice* Mortensen ; van Straelen *vice* Richter ; Usinger *vice* Vokes.

11. The Ruling given in the present *Opinion* was dissented from by no Commissioner or Alternate Commissioner present at the Paris Session.

12. At the time of the adoption of the Ruling given in the present *Opinion*, the expression prescribed for the second portion of the binomen which constitutes the scientific name of a species was the expression "trivial name" and the *Official List* reserved for recording such names was styled the *Official List of Specific Trivial Names in Zoology*, the word "trivial" appearing also in the title of the *Official Index* reserved for recording rejected and invalid names of this category. Under a decision taken by the Fourteenth International Congress of Zoology, Copenhagen, 1953, the expression "specific name" was substituted for the expression "trivial name" and corresponding changes were made in the titles of the *Official List* and *Official Index* of such names (1953, *Copenhagen Decisions zool. Nomencl.* : 21). The changes in terminology so adopted have been incorporated in the Ruling given in the present *Opinion*.

13. The prescribed procedures were duly complied with by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature in dealing with the present case, and the present *Opinion* is accordingly hereby rendered in the name of the said International Commission by the under-signed Francis Hemming, Secretary to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, in virtue of all and every the powers conferred upon him in that behalf.

14. The present *Opinion* shall be known as *Opinion Two Hundred and Seventy-Five (275)* of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature.

DONE in London, this Fifteenth day of January, Nineteen Hundred and Fifty-Four.

*Secretary to the International Commission
on Zoological Nomenclature*

FRANCIS HEMMING